

# Endovascular retrieval of ruptured and dislocated vascular catheter

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A 61-year-old female patient was admitted to the cardiology department due to dyspnea and atypical chest pain. She had cervical cancer with metastasis to the lungs which was diagnosed 2 years earlier. The patient was undergoing palliative chemotherapy (vinorelbine) administered through a silicone catheter (Celsite – implantable access port system; B Braun Medical, France) localized in the right subclavian vein. On admission, the patient was hemodynamically stable (blood pressure: 120/80 mm Hg, heart rate: 80 bpm, saturation 98%). Laboratory tests revealed anemia (Hb: 10.1 g/dl, Ht: 31.1%) and elevated serum creatinine (1.2 mg/dl, eGFR 47.0 ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>). Pulmonary embolism was excluded using echocardiography and D-Dimer measurement. In echocardiography a longitudinal shadow was found in the heart protruding to the inferior vena cava. Therefore an abdominal X-ray was performed (Figure 1 A). Examination confirmed the presence of a ruptured chemotherapy catheter. A 17.5 cm long catheter was located in the inferior vena cava and right atrium. Due to the risk of thrombus-embolic complications the patient was qualified for endovascular removal of the catheter.

After local anesthesia the right femoral vein was punctured. A 7 Fr vascular sheath was introduced and a 7 Fr Judkins right guiding catheter (Medtronic, USA) was located below the lower tip of the catheter. An Andrasnare AS-10 device with atraumatic 10 mm nitinol loop (Andradamed GmbH, Germany) was introduced through the guiding catheter. The device loop was positioned at the very end of the catheter, which enabled coaxially pulling out the ruptured catheter through the 7 Fr sheath (Figures 1 B–D). Fluoroscopy time was 9 min 12 s with a radiation dose of 0.2 Gy. A total of 20 ml of contrast media was used. There were no periprocedural complications. The next day, the remaining part of the broken vascular port chamber was removed surgically from subcutaneous

tissue in the right subclavian vein region. The patient was discharged home on the fifth day.

Subcutaneous venous catheters are commonly used in patients with cancer. Located in big veins, they are used for fluid infusion, parenteral nutrition, and administration of chemotherapy agents [1–3]. Early complications associated with catheters occur immediately after the implantation. They can be related to clinical conditions of the patient or to surgical factors. These include skin or vascular perforation, hemothorax, incorrect positioning of the catheter, and improper anchoring of the catheter with early dislocation. The rate of early complications is below 4.5% [4]. The late complications include infection of the subcutaneous pocket or the port system, skin infection, sepsis, drug extravasation, mechanical malfunction, skin necrosis, catheter thrombosis, catheter disconnection and embolization, and venous thrombosis. The rate of migration of the ruptured catheter ranges from 0.2% to 8% [4]. The mechanism and the exact time of catheter rupture in the present case is unknown. Dislocation of the separated catheter fragment to the cardiovascular system is not frequent. It is associated with possible severe clinical consequences (life-threatening arrhythmias, sepsis, thrombus formation, endocarditis, heart perforation or even death) [2, 4]. Therefore the dislocated catheter should be urgently removed from vascular circulation. The recommended approach for foreign body removal is minimally invasive endovascular treatment under fluoroscopy with snaring devices [3, 5]. Minimally invasive techniques present outstanding results and may minimize morbidity and mortality [3]. The remaining catheter part in the subcutaneous tissue can be easily removed surgically under local anesthesia.

## Conflict of interest

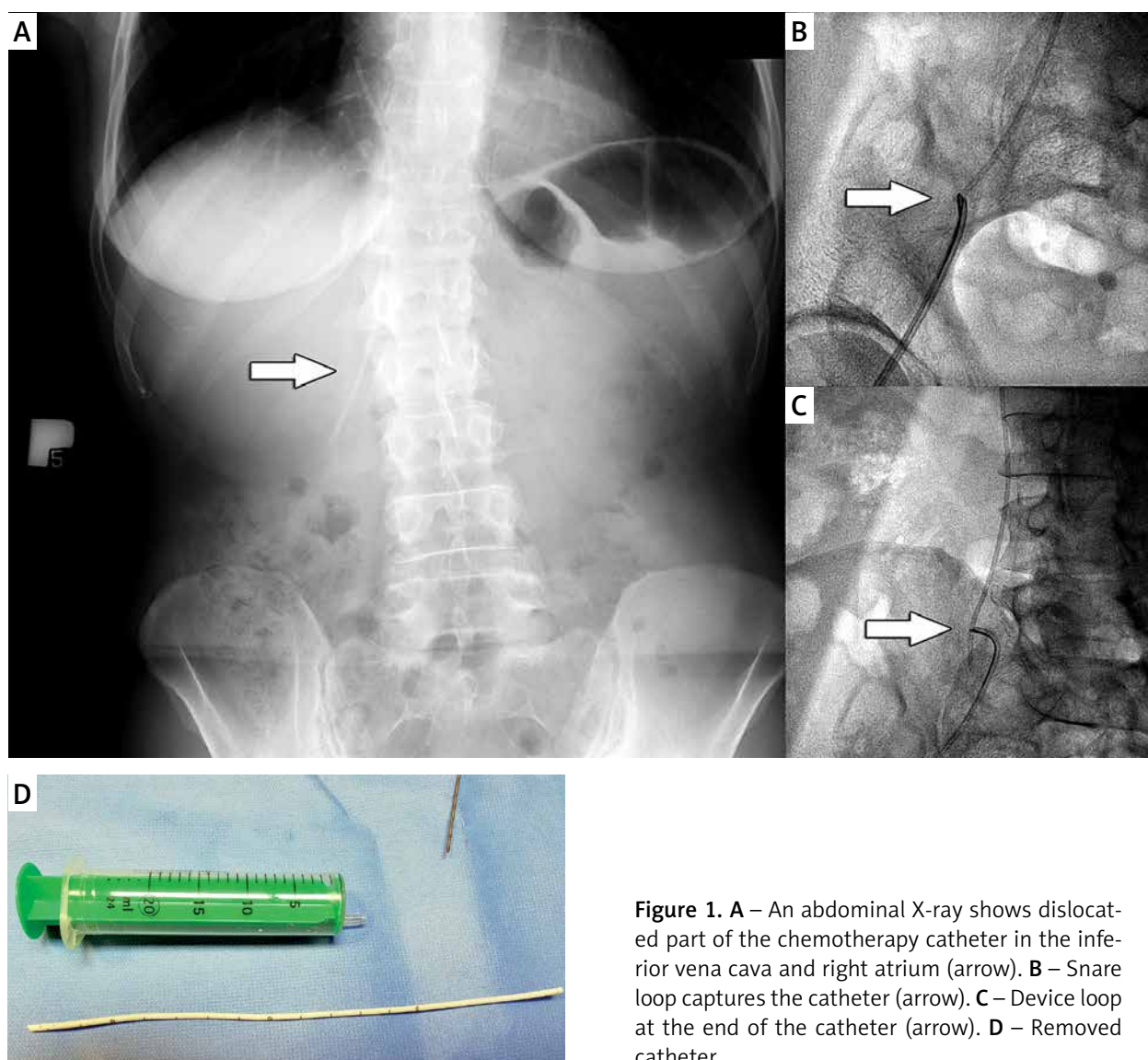
The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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**Figure 1.** **A** – An abdominal X-ray shows dislocated part of the chemotherapy catheter in the inferior vena cava and right atrium (arrow). **B** – Snare loop captures the catheter (arrow). **C** – Device loop captures the end of the catheter (arrow). **D** – Removed catheter

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